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18/august/1950

PRESENT

Admiral Hillenkoetter.....Central Intelligence Agency
 Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr.....Department of State
 General A. R. Bolling.....Department of the Army
Deputy A.C./S, D-2
 Admiral Felix L. Johnson.....Department of the Navy
 Lt. Col. Thomas J. Grant.....Department of the Air Force
 Dr. Walter F. Colby.....Atomic Energy Commission
 General Vernon E. Megee.....Joint Chiefs of Staff
 [REDACTED].....Federal Bureau of Investigation

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ALSO PRESENT

Mr. P. Childs.....Central Intelligence Agency

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| [REDACTED] | | " | " | " |
| [REDACTED] | | " | " | " |
| [REDACTED] | | " | " | " |
| [REDACTED] | | " | " | " |

Mr. William C. Trueheart.....Department of State
 Col. Hamilton Howze.....Department of the Army
 Colonel Charles V. Bromley....." " " "
Lt. Col. Arthur B. Kiel
 Captain John M. Ocher.....Department of the Navy
 Mr. Strickland.....Department of the Air Force

Capt. R. G. McCool.....Joint Chiefs of Staff

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[REDACTED].....Federal Bureau of Investigation

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ADM. HILLENKOETTER: The thing we wanted to bring up was to call people's attention again to the NIS. They are slowed down there so that we won't finish it until 1957. What has come up on that is certainly understandable. You can not work on the NIS when the boys are taking shots at you coming over the hill. But I would like to recommend and ask everyone here to speed them up as much as they can, because otherwise I think we are going to get sluggish some time. The Joint Chiefs are going to come around and say, 'Where is this thing you have been working on for three or four years?' -- and you will not have it yet.

GEN. BOLLING: As soon as we discovered this fact that we had not made our commitments, I found that in our Engineer and Transportation Corps, in view of this present trouble, they have been forced to pull everyone off the NIS. Now we are confronted with the proposition of getting additional personnel. We have put that up to our G-4, but we are getting no place at all. I am afraid we have not gotten very far, in so far as the Army is concerned.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: I think in general that that will hold for all of the Armed Services.

ADM. JOHNSON: I will make my confession too. I understand that we got in one-seventh of what we were supposed to do in July. But I have 12 Reserve Officers who have reported within the last ten days, and I have 58 more coming in. When we get those I think we will be able to get close to the track.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: It is most understandable why they slow down on it, the way things are, and I think they slow down very rightly. It is a long range thing. The only reason we want to bring it up now is so that sometime we don't get called up and you will stand there with your hat in your hand saying, 'Yes, sir', and 'No, sir'.

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GEN BOLLING: I have a humble suggestion -- if there is any way of getting ample support where the chief of the technical service can not take these people and employ them on another effort, so we can set them aside with a primary mission of completing the NIS, I think it would be far more satisfactory. We figure in our Engineers alone -- maybe this figure is a little high, although I am assured it is not -- that we need some 92 people. The other high figure is in Transportation: we need 80. We can go to the G-4 over there and say, 'We would like these 92 people set aside'. But he is going to come right back, as he did, and say, 'Well, am I supposed to ship equipment to Korea or work on the NIS?' That is not an alibi. I think if there was some way of getting funds set aside for this express purpose, and having those people designated as NIS personnel, it would be far more satisfactory.

GEN. MEGEE: That is probably the only way you are going to do it and deal with the present emergency.

ADM. JOHNSON: I think the only properly equipped people that you could find to do this are probably Reserve Officers. That is true in my office.

MEGEE: Where do they come from? -----

ADM JOHNSON: We may find them back in uniform again, subject to any kind of duty!

I have a suggestion too, if I may make one. This sounds like a 'crack', Roscoe, but I don't mean it to be so, but my people feel we are striving for a degree of perfection in putting these out which is slowing down the effort tremendously. They feel that if we could be a little less meticulous in the editorial scrutiny and avoid the constant sending back for editorial corrections, that we could expedite it considerably. They are going to be under constant review, as I understand it anyway, so if "ain't" is used instead of "isn't", it would be better to have "aint't" in and have something to work with than to wait for perfection.

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ADM. HILLENKOETTER: There is no argument at all -- as Felix said, there is this business of shipping material to Korea. We brought it up so that sometime the boys who have forgotten all about this won't say, 'We told you to do this. You should have done it two years ago.'

ADM. JOHNSON: There are two more things I would like to say, if I may. One, I believe that sometime in April or May the JCS reexamined the priority list of NIS. I wonder if we should not reexamine it again now in the light of the Korean thing to see if it is not possible that we are working on something which is not of immediate urgency.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: I don't know whether you want to go in to that too much. On that reexamination they culled them down from 15 to 8, and now we are below 8. Would you want to needle them to do it again? They could say, 'We cut it down half now'.

ADM. JOHNSON: I meant a rearrangement.

GEN. MEGEE: They might rearrange the priorities.

ADM. JOHNSON: They told me one thing that we are doing on all of the estimates we are now preparing. They are trying to use the same format which is used in NIS so that that estimate could be fitted into an NIS. They feel they can save some effort and time that way.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: That would help. Has anybody any more comments on it?

GEN. BOLLING: I would like to return to this suggestion, in so far as the Army is concerned, of setting up this NIS group within G-2 on funds set aside for that express purpose, and then we will have these technical services more or less tied where they can not grab our personnel. So far as officers are concerned, I don't go along with that so much because they will grab them and transfer them. I think a civilian analyst would work a lot better. Now, is there a possibility of securing funds for this?

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: How about hitting Mr. Johnson for some of that \$5,000,000,000 he just got?

GEN. BOLLING: We tried that yesterday.

ADM. JOHNSON: Have not you got such an arrangement now with State that you supply the funds?

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: Some of them. But the difficulty about that is that the budget here is just started. We might ask for funds for next year, but we can not ask for them now.

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All of those persons on that budget are one hundred percent on the NIS, but the rest of our organization contributes to it as well and fills in a great deal of the work that would not otherwise be done. I would think that the Service Intelligence Agencies could arrange within their department budgets a separation -- if it did nothing else than prevent the grabbing of people. It would be a very favorable factor.

ADM. JOHNSON: I am not sure that I would want that. I don't know how many of them we have working in ONI -- maybe twenty. If they had been in this separate compartment when the crisis came out in Korea I could not have used them -- and I want to use them.

GEN. BOLLING: I didn't put it that way. You could have used them, but it would prevent the technical services from grabbing them. The Engineers are doing that now. That is correct, is it not?

COL. HOWZE: They have diverted 92 people.

GEN. BOLLING: We see no bright light where they are going to do anything -- unless some pressure can be brought to bear whereby they can be set aside.

ADM. JOHNSON: Have we got any people in our technical services who are set aside?

CAPT. OCHER: There is nobody set aside in Navy, so far as I know, for that purpose.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: If you think it would help, I will sit down

and write a letter to Mr. Johnson.

GEN. BOLLING: By a very strange coincidence I have exactly what we need!

(General Bolling handed Admiral Hillenkoetter a paper.)

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: I know that our attachés are being increased again. We were not getting enough reports from them. So it is possible that we can backtrack on this a little.

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ADM. HILLENKOETTER: That is right. But it is not in the budget now.

GEN. BOLLING: I asked for \$....., and the 'Indian' I had with me didn't feel we needed that much. He is minus his feathers now!

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: We got the money we put in for. We are paying Interior, the petroleum business, on it. All of that went in and was approved. But I don't want to go back now and say, 'Wait a minute. We have to ask for so much for this and so much for that'.

GEN. BOLLING: In your reports you recommend the solution to this problem by the assignment of a full time staff?

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: Yes.

GEN. BOLLING: We certainly go along with that, providing we can convince our Secretaries that we should have that.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: Suppose we draw up a letter and send it around. It won't hurt and it might do some good.

ADM. JOHNSON: Do you want any estimate from us as to how much would be required?

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: I don't think so. I think we can make it a general letter, and then say that in the Defense Department the Secretary can get the figures from his people there. It might not scare him so much.

GEN. BOLLING: The only bad feature of that coming to the Army

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is that the secretary might say, according the score method used here, 'It looks like your percentage is higher than anybody else'. That is not correct.

ADM HILLENKOETTER: I think you can explain that. It all has to work on an even keel. If one finishes the rest have to. It all has to come in roughly at the same time.

GEN BOLLING: This counts for one, and this counts for one.

(General Bolling held up one volume about 1½ inches thick and one very thin pamphlet.)

The scoring is not quite fair.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: You can not score them by weights either. The boys might object to that. Say the Army had 25 pounds and somebody else had only three pounds.

ADM. JOHNSON: I am very pleased to see that the Air Force saved me by one percent.

ADM HILLENKOETTER: If everybody is agreeable we will make up that letter and see what we can do. In the meantime, your minds have just been refreshed on it.

Another item we have is ---

MR. ARMSTRONG: Before leaving that, I want to take this opportunity of complimenting the coordinator on the annual report. It is a very good job.

ADM HILLENKOETTER: We will give him a nice big apple -- give him a raise.

Another item which was brought up at the last meeting was the obtaining of scientific reports from HICOG. I think Park (Armstrong) has that all settled now, and maybe he would like to pass a few reports.

MR. ARMSTRONG: Bill Trueheart has been handling that. Bill is here so we will ask him to report on that.

MR. TRUEHEART: After the last meeting we sent a telegram to HICOG trying to clarify it. We got back a reply to that which seemed ambiguous.

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Then we had to clarify that, and that was the reason for the delay. It appears that it is all straightened out. The latest reply says that the military security board will furnish to Defense and the other Intelligence Agencies such reports as they request, including All German reports submitted to the Scientific Research Division by German scientists. Implementation is now proceeding.

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ADM JOHNSON: Did you see the dispatch on that this morning? There was one on it. It is a man names [REDACTED] who is connected with it.

MR. CHILDS: He is CIA.

ADM. JOHNSON: As I remember, it said that reports from '49 were being shipped to Washington, and they asked for guidance as to who they should be shipped to, and presumed that the distribution would be made by the addressee here.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: I have not seen that.

ADM. JOHNSON: It was from HICOG.

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ADM. HILLENKOETTER: [REDACTED] has been over there working with Nordstrom. We sent him some microfilm material. I don't know whether that was the same project.

MR. TRUEHEART: That is a related project -- a question of microfilming all of the material.

ADM. JOHNSON: He said he didn't need any microfilm equipment to do this.

ADM. HILLENKOETTER: Is there anything else? That is fine. A very fast meeting. I will see you all on the 28th.

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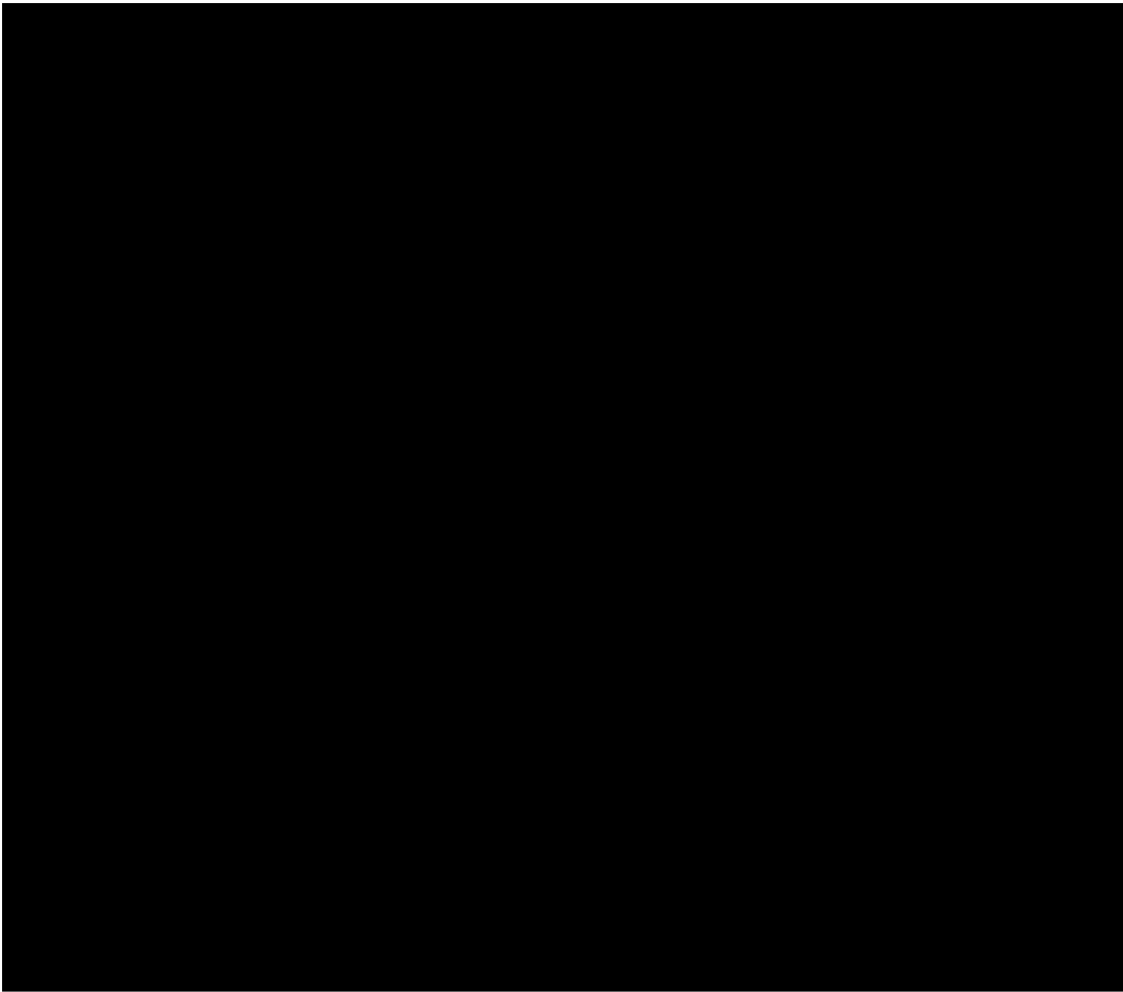
*Name spelled phonetically.

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ADM. HILLENKOETTER: That is on the agenda for next week -- next Thursday. What answer they will get, I don't know. It is not a simple question.

If there is no more, we will call it a day.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

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